



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Mesnard Applauds Passage of Legislation Calling for Article V Convention on Balanced Budget Amendment

Arizona Also Calls for Meeting of States to Plan Rules for Convention

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17) thanked his colleagues in the Legislature for passing and Governor Ducey for signing into law [HB 2226](#), which establishes a compact outlining a balanced budget amendment and calls for an Article V convention to ratify the amendment. A parallel resolution sponsored by Speaker Mesnard, [HCR 2013](#), which also calls for an Article V convention to propose a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, was also passed by the Legislature.

“Arizona is sending a message that if the federal government can’t get their fiscal house in order, the states will do it for them, just as our Founding Fathers envisioned,” said Speaker Mesnard. **“In correspondence with a state legislator in 1798, then Vice President Thomas Jefferson wrote, ‘I wish it were possible to obtain a single amendment to our Constitution. I would be willing to depend on that alone for the reduction of the administration of our government; I mean an additional article taking from the Federal Government the power of borrowing.’ It might be more than 200 years late, but I hope we can finally give Jefferson his wish.”**

The Legislature also adopted [HCR 2022](#), which outlines the process for appointing delegates to an Article V convention and, furthermore, convenes a planning convention of states in Phoenix in September 2017 to begin preparation for a formal Article V convention. These pieces of legislation were in addition to other Article V measures passed earlier in the Session.

“Arizona is at the forefront of efforts urging states to flex their muscles by exercising their constitutionally-prescribed powers to push back against the federal government. I look forward to talking with our counterparts in other states to begin work organizing an

Article V amendments convention that will finally put our national government on a more solvent fiscal path,” said Speaker Mesnard.

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